

ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025

Creating a better everyday life for the people in our community



Boomerang Community Centre 10
Kemback Street Dundee DD4 6ET
Telephone 01382 455656

info@boomerang.org.uk
www.boomerang.org.uk
www.facebook.com/BoomerangCommunityCentre



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

- To foster a stronger, inclusive community by addressing the needs of individuals across social, mental, and economic spectra through accessible services and partnerships.
- Provide a safe, caring, welcoming environment.
- Foster a resilient populace by providing opportunities for growth, development, and participation in community decisions.
- Improve the mental, social and physical wellbeing of the community by bringing people together to connect and interact in a variety of ways.
- Organise and host affordable projects which are aimed at offering enjoyable interactions and improving life satisfaction.
- Use our resources and platform to reduce the harmful effects of poverty in an equitable, non- judgemental manner.
- Work in partnership with other local agencies to create a cohesive system of support, share resources and information, and collaborate on delivery.
- Promote sustainability in all our operations by integrating environmentally-friendly practices, ensuring long-term financial stability, and fostering operational resilience by empowering and retaining staff and volunteers through education, training, and positive working conditions.



Message from the Chair

Since joining the Boomerang Board of Trustees and stepping into the role of Chair, I've been both proud and inspired to witness the breadth of what Boomerang delivers — and the depth of impact it has across our community.

This impact doesn't come from good fortune or chance — it's the result of genuine dedication, consistent hard work, and a real sense of care from the team; staff and volunteers alike, partners, members and the local community. Boomerang is more than just a community organisation; it's a community.

Since the Board's appointment, We've met many of the staff and volunteers and have been consistently impressed by their passion and commitment to making Boomerang a welcoming, vital part of the community.

There's a shared sense of purpose here — a belief in the importance of tackling isolation, creating opportunities, and offering practical support in a way that's inclusive and meaningful.

The manager has been central to this- her positive energy and forward-thinking approach are evident, and I believe she will be instrumental in guiding Boomerang through the next stage of its journey. With her leadership, and the strength of the team around her, I'm confident the organisation is well placed to grow its reach and deepen its impact even further.

As a new Board, we're still learning the ins and outs of the organisation, but we're united in our commitment to Boomerang's long-term success. We recognise the need to support not just the brilliant day-to-day work, but also to help build solid foundations for the future — from sustainable funding and staff development to strategic planning and stronger partnerships.

It's a privilege to be part of Boomerang at such an exciting point in its development, and I look forward to working alongside the team, our fellow Trustees, and the wider community as we build on everything that has been achieved so far.

Denis McGurk
Chair, Boomerang Trustees

Partnerships

With You

With you provide free and confidential support to adults and young people facing challenges with drugs, alcohol & mental health. We secured Alcohol & Drug Partnership funding in the spring of 2024 which allowed us to provide a room, three days per week, for With You to undertake 1:1 structured recovery work. This funding also provided funding for With You to issue vouchers for our food larder- meaning their clients have access to free food and hygiene products in a non-judgemental and welcoming space.



Andy'sManClub

ANDYSMANCLUB's mission, put simply, is to prevent families from going through the heartache and grief caused by suicide, by encouraging men to speak openly about their issues.

They aim to achieve this through their free Monday night talking groups, and through the power of awareness, sharing stories and sharing experiences.



Community Health Team

The Coldside & Maryfield Community Health Team provide support on various topics, such as:

Mental health and wellbeing

Keeping active

Cooking and healthy eating

Positive parenting

Use of substances They support us to:

Develop knowledge and skills for positive health

Share information about support/activities in the community

Understand what affects health and how to take action with others

Set up and run new groups to improve health and wellbeing





SLCo

The Speech Language Communication Company (SLCo), recognises the unique and diverse speech, language, and communication needs (SLCN) that many children and adults struggle with daily.

They acknowledge that children and young people with communication support needs often find themselves unheard and overlooked, excluded and isolated.

Every Monday morning and Tuesday evenings at Boomerang, they work with families to help equip them with the knowledge & skills they need to enhance the lives of children & young people.

Dundee Community Food Network

We have worked with The Dundee Community Food Network for several years now, they facilitate our working with key partners: Dundee City Council, 30+ Community Food Projects, Dundee and Angus Foodbank, Alexander Community Development (ACD) and Money Advice Services to support the strategic, citywide actions around poverty and food access. They deliver key training for staff and volunteers, facilitate interconnection between projects and organisations, and support our daily work and strategic planning.



Dundee Libraries

Working primarily with Dundee Central Library and Arthurstone Library, we have collaborated on projects, groups and events throughout the year. Our monthly Book Club has books loaned by the local library, along with book-club notes and prompts and our weekly reminiscence group are treated to several 'memory boxes' per year containing photographs, objects and documents from times past for interactive discussion.

DJ's Showtime

Dundee Junior Showtime have been running for 55 years and started using the Boomerang building last year when their founder retired. The group, split over two age groups, aims to instill joy, a love for physical activity and discipline through song, dance and performance. The group believe that Dance is more than just movement; it is a powerful tool for personal growth, self-expression, and community building and the benefits of dance for young people extend far beyond the studio, positively impacting physical health, emotional wellbeing, social skills, and academic success.





Outreach and Engagement

Over the past year, Boomerang has continued to strengthen its presence and build meaningful connections across the community through a broad range of outreach and engagement activities.

As part of Challenge Poverty Week and the Stobswell West Fairness Initiative, we hosted a collaborative event in October alongside Dundee City Council. Held at the Centre, the event brought together a range of local organisations and service providers to offer practical support, advice, and information to local residents. It created an accessible space for people to explore the support available to them and to speak directly with the services they may need. Boomerang has remained an active contributor to the Fairness Initiative year-round, promoting inclusion and equitable access to support.

In March, we hosted a lively and empowering International Women's Day event, bringing together local and national organisations to offer information and support on health, wellbeing, reproductive rights, and holistic therapies. The event led to new partnerships and the development of several new groups and services, set to launch in the coming year.

We've also continued to attend community drop-in events across Dundee, allowing us to connect with individuals who may not yet access our services. These events help us better understand local needs and share knowledge with other community centres—ensuring our work remains responsive, informed, and collaborative.

In February, our Development Officer attended SCVO's The Gathering, Scotland's largest third sector event. It offered valuable professional development and networking opportunities, and has helped us explore new ways of improving our services and impact.

We also continued to publish our quarterly newsletter, which is distributed to all Centre members and shared online. It helps keep the community informed about our activities, upcoming events, and partnership opportunities.

A particular highlight this year was our Community Engagement and Outreach post, funded by the Rank Foundation. During her time in the role, Amy did an excellent job of raising awareness about Boomerang, attending events across Dundee including adult learning sessions, CBAL meetings, and engagement activities at schools and colleges. Her efforts helped us reach new audiences and bring more people through our doors.

Community engagement continues to be central to our mission. It helps us reach those who might not otherwise access support, strengthens trust, and ensures we remain visible and relevant in the lives of those we serve. As we move forward, we remain committed to deepening this connection and finding new ways to engage, listen, and support.

Food Provision

At Boomerang, we believe that providing warm, welcoming, and supportive spaces makes a lasting difference in people's lives. Over the past year, we've seen continued growth across our community services, particularly through our Cosy Café, Community Larder, and Lunch Club. These initiatives have not only met practical needs such as food, warmth, and financial advice, but have also strengthened social connections, reduced isolation, and fostered a greater sense of belonging in the community.

Cosy Café

Our Cosy Café runs every weekday, Monday to Friday, and has become a vital social hub for many local residents. Wednesdays are our busiest day, as café regulars often coordinate their visits with trips to the Community Larder, turning it into a multi-purpose trip. For many, the café provides an opportunity to enjoy a warm drink, a bite to eat, and—most importantly—a friendly chat with familiar faces.

The Cosy Café offers a safe, warm, and inclusive environment where people can come to combat loneliness, isolation, and food insecurity. It also acts as a gateway to the wider range of support and activities offered at the Centre, encouraging service users to explore new opportunities and access the help they need.

We've also welcomed a variety of local organisations into the café, creating valuable opportunities for informal engagement between service users and support services. Some highlights this year included:

Coffee with a Cop with the Community Police Team – fostering approachable, relaxed conversations between officers and residents.

A visit from the Dundee City Council Employability Team.

Local Councilors holding community drop-in surgeries.

An awareness morning with Scottish Fire & Rescue for National No Smoking Day.

Advice sessions from Dundee Citizens Advice Bureau.

Yorkshire Building Society workshops on financial inclusion and the cost of living.

These visits have been met with great enthusiasm, with service users engaging openly and positively with all attending organisations.

In 2024/25, the Cosy Café was accessed 2,207 times, reflecting its crucial role in the lives of many in our community.



Community Larder

Our Community Larder continues to be one of our most in-demand services, running three days a week— Monday, Wednesday, and Friday—from 10am to 12pm. The larder helps local individuals and families access affordable food and essential supplies in a friendly, non-judgemental environment. Wednesday remains our busiest day, with many visitors coordinating their trip to also attend the café.

We supply a wide range of goods, including ambient, chilled and frozen food, fresh fruit and vegetables, bread, and essential hygiene and sanitary products. From just £2, users can stock up on the basics they need to support themselves and their families for the week.

The larder is supported by a fantastic network of donors and community partners, including:

Alexanders Community Development

Fans Supporting Foodbanks

Local churches, groups and organisations.

Lidl, Aldi, Sainsburys, Morrisons, Asda and Tesco.

Generous individuals who regularly donate bags of food to give back to their community



In 2024/25:

We recorded 2,571 visits to the Community Larder

248 of these were from new service users, accessing the larder for the first time

The larder generated £9,184.50 in income which was then used to purchase further items to stock up the fridges, freezer and shelves.

The estimated value of food distributed was an incredible £68,883.75

These figures underline the scale and impact of this essential service in our community

Lunch Club

Running Monday to Thursday, our Lunch Club provides not only nutritious, home-cooked meals but also a vital opportunity for social interaction, companionship, and a sense of routine. For many attendees, the Lunch Club is a home from home.

The meals are capably prepared by our long-serving cook Lynne, who has been a dedicated member of the Boomerang team for 25 years. She's supported by a hardworking team of staff and volunteers, all committed to ensuring that everyone feels welcome, well-fed, and cared for.

Each meal includes a two (sometimes three) course offering for just £4. Meals typically include a bowl of homemade soup followed by a hearty main dish such as fish, chips, and peas or Lynne's famous Stovies! Alternatives like toasties or baked potatoes are available for those who prefer something a bit lighter. A sweet treat rounds off the meal, with pudding, biscuits, and tea or coffee depending on what's available- using primarily diverted food can lead to an eclectic, but always delicious offering.

Beyond the food, the Lunch Club is a gateway to wider engagement. Most attendees also take part in at least one of the other groups or activities offered at the Centre, making it a central part of their weekly routine and social life.

In 2024/25, we served 2,588 meals through the Lunch Club, each one contributing to the physical and emotional wellbeing of our service users.



These services—Cosy Café, Community Larder, and Lunch Club—form the heart of our community offering. Together, they reduce hardship, encourage connection, and promote dignity and wellbeing. As we move forward, we remain committed to meeting the needs of our community with compassion, innovation, and care.

Child, Youth & Families

Stay and Play

It's been a busy and rewarding year for our Stay and Play group, with an impressive 3,136 visits recorded over the past 12 months.

We've continued to develop a wide range of engaging activities, including role play, sensory exploration, construction, and arts and crafts. Families often tell us the quality and structure of the sessions help prepare children for school life:

"It's like a nursery in here – they have a routine, and the toys are engaging. It's definitely helped with preparing him for school."

Throughout the year, we've partnered with local organisations to deliver enriching, creative experiences. In May, Dundee Contemporary Arts ran an 'Art at the Start' session, supporting children's development through messy and sensory play with their caregivers. We also welcomed back Shaper/Caper with a relaxed, inclusive performance of The Snow Queen, which was enjoyed by 20 children and their families.



To support early literacy, we now host monthly 'Rhyme Time' sessions delivered by the National Literacy Trust, bringing stories, music, and play into the group. Our partnership with Kingspark School has also grown, with regular visits to our outdoor space by children with multiple and complex disabilities, offering safe access to outdoor play.

We've celebrated several joyful milestones, including our Christmas parties, which saw 60 children meet Santa and receive gifts—generously supported by Help for Kids, Lidl Toy Bank, and others.

Looking ahead, we hope to renovate our toddler arts and crafts area and further develop our sensory space to meet the evolving needs of the children and families who attend. With continued support, we aim to keep making Stay and Play a vibrant, inclusive and nurturing space for all.

Youth Groups

Boomerang's youth provision has continued to thrive over the last year, with our Art Group and Games Group growing in numbers, creativity, and confidence. We are proud to offer safe, welcoming, and inclusive spaces where young people can build friendships, try new things, and develop valuable skills.

Our Art Group has gone from strength to strength supported by our dedicated sessional art tutor and joined this year by three new volunteers, bringing fresh energy and ideas to the group. We've introduced a variety of creative activities and materials, with jewellery making and using the pottery wheel proving to be particular favourites.

The group offers a consistent, structured space for self-expression and relaxation.

Feedback from attendees highlights the importance of the group in their weekly routine:

"Coming here gives me motivation to go to school during the week – it's something to look forward to on a Friday."

– Art Group participant, aged 11



This year, we also partnered with ScrapAntics and Dundee City Council Events Team to host a 'Hooley Lantern' making session. Fifteen children participated and later used their lanterns in the local Hooley parade, helping them feel part of a bigger community celebration.

The Games Group continues to grow in popularity and now regularly welcomes between 25 and 30 young people each week. What began as a group focused on console gaming has developed into a dynamic, youth-led space that includes board games, Lego building, and outdoor play.

Young people are at the heart of shaping the group. Through regular feedback sessions, we've empowered them to act as equal partners in planning activities. During the warmer months, the group make use of our outdoor space and nearby Baxter Park for sports, games, and physical play, offering a much-needed outlet for energy and socialising.





Wider Youth Engagement

As of January, Boomerang has become an active member of both the Dundee Youth Network and the Central Youth Network. These connections have opened up opportunities for collaborative work, learning, and youth voice engagement.

In March, we participated in the City Centre Day of Action, where we engaged around 30 young people in meaningful conversations about what kind of youth provision they'd like to see in their communities and how it can be delivered in a fair and inclusive way:

"I like when we get asked what we want... It doesn't happen that much at school, but I think it should. If we're going to a group, we should be able to decide what we do and what happens at it." – Young person, aged 13

Looking ahead, we plan to launch longer-term projects and explore youth-led social enterprise opportunities, allowing our young people to take ownership of their groups and build skills in leadership, creativity, and teamwork.

Holiday Provision

We were once again able to offer a full calendar of holiday provision, thanks to generous funding and support from Dundee Bairns, who helped provide both lunches for all and funding for activities.

Easter Holidays: 24 young people enjoyed two weeks of themed activities, including biscuit decorating, Easter bonnet making, and an egg hunt.

Summer Holidays: We supported 42 children across three weeks of fun. Highlights included trips to Camperdown Zoo and Park, the Transport Museum, and Blackness Road Fire Station. Each group also enjoyed a picnic in the park, a movie day, and a mix of arts, crafts, and sensory play.

October Holidays: 26 children took part in two weeks of seasonal crafts and spooky fun, including pumpkin carving and mask making.

Our holiday sessions offer more than entertainment - they provide routine, nutrition, connection, and safe, positive experiences for local children.

Family Events

We hosted several vibrant family events this year, which were extremely well-attended and offered families the chance to spend quality time together in a fun and supportive environment.

In June, we held 'Dads, Lads and Little Ladies', a lively free event which welcomed over 100 attendees. Children took part in bracelet making, rock painting, face painting, and received haircuts, books from the National Literacy Trust and school uniform items donated by local supermarkets. Local businesses also generously donated raffle prizes, adding excitement to the day.

Our Family Halloween Party brought together over 50 families for a night of free food, games, and festive fun. We were also able to offer free Halloween costumes for children to wear at the event and take home.

Family Classes

We have also run two six-week blocks of family cooking classes, attended by up to 6 families. The sessions focused on preparing healthy, nutritious meals on a budget, and gave families the chance to cook, eat, and learn together.



Social Inclusion

While some of our groups may seem purely social or recreational at first glance, they play a vital role in supporting the health and wellbeing of our community. Research shows that loneliness can be as harmful to health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day (Campaign to End Loneliness, 2022), and that regular social and physical activity can reduce the risk of dementia by up to 30% (Alzheimer's Research UK).

Participation in arts and cultural activities has been linked to a 37% reduction in anxiety and depression (Culture Counts, Scottish Government), while regular movement-based activities help reduce the risk of falls and injury, a leading cause of hospital admissions among older adults (Public Health Scotland).

Our wide range of groups is designed not just for fun, but to support physical health, mental resilience, social connection, and cognitive wellbeing. Every chat, every game, every shared experience contributes meaningfully to building a healthier, happier, and more connected community.

Knit n Natter

Combining creativity with conversation, our Knit n Natter group aims to reduce loneliness and boost mental wellbeing, especially among older adults. Our group create amazing items which they sell to fund their supplies and Mondays are an especially joyful day here due to the chatter and laughter that comes from their room.

Karaoke

Our lively Karaoke group came about as a result of one of our centre users bringing their passion for music and singing to the centre. Karaoke helps boost confidence, memory, and mood, through singing and socialising, and has certainly done so for our 'Boomerang Babes' who prepare a performance every month that so far have included; feather boas, sunglasses & suits, and a variety of glittery hats!

Hoy

Fun and friendly, our Hoy sessions keep minds sharp and spirits high, offering light-hearted competition that strengthens memory and friendships.

Book Club

Sharing stories through Book Clubs strengthens cognitive function and social bonds, helping to delay memory decline in older adults while also offering the rich, intrinsic benefits of multi-generational discussion. Our attendees tell us they look forward to their monthly group and often catch up with each other between times to share progress and opinions.

Warhammer

Strategic gaming like Warhammer promotes problem-solving, social interaction, and fine motor skills across all ages. This is one of our most diverse groups with 15+ people of all ages and sexes participating – and as there isn't really anything similar nearby.

Flowing for Arthritis

Gentle movement in Flowing for Arthritis classes eases joint pain, improves flexibility and balance, and encourages mindfulness. Being one of our newer groups we would expect this to be a bit quieter but from the get-go it has been popular and busy. We have recently completed a case study with one attendee who joined us initially using a walker, and over the few months since starting they have moved to a walking stick and are now walking independently again.

***Tai Chi***

Tai Chi enhances balance, mobility, and mental calm, with evidence suggesting it reduces falls by up to 43% in older people. Our Tai Chi instructor has studied the art for 45 years, including a 6 year training in China- our attendees know they are in safe, experienced hands that will guide them towards wellbeing.

Tea Dance

Dancing and movement can improve cardiovascular health, coordination, and memory, while Tea Dances foster joyful social connections. Our group is well attended by both centre users and users of the local Inclusion Group. We find the gentle, familiar movements are ideal for those with additional support needs and older adults.

Dominoes

Playing Dominoes can boost cognitive skills and offer an easy, relaxed way to stay connected and socially active. Our long-established group is small but enthusiastic, with the volunteers (and sometimes staff) joining in to make teams equal and be in with a chance to win the coveted Dominoes Trophy!

Pilates

Our weekly Pilates class builds core strength, balance, and flexibility, helping reduce the risk of falls and promoting overall vitality. We have attendees of all ages and provide free use of equipment for those who don't have their own.

Adult Art

Creative expression through art classes improves mental wellbeing, lowers stress, and encourages meaningful social engagement. We have been lucky enough to have a small pot of funding which has allowed us in this past year to team up with a student from Dundee University who has been attending fortnightly to teach the group about different artforms and techniques.

SBK

SBK (Salsa, Bachata and Kizomba) dance sessions boost heart health, improve coordination, and create joyful social connections through the rhythms of Latin and African dance. Our group brings a real energy to the participants- we always know when the group is done for the week due to the buzz moving through the building!

Craft

Craft groups offer hands-on creativity that improves dexterity, enhances mood, and provides a welcoming space for friendship. Our group participate in all different crafts from embroidery to card making, diamond art to jewellery, with attendees sharing their skills, knowledge and supplies, along with a cup of tea and a biscuit or two.

Tease & Tone

Fun and energetic, Tease & Tone classes support cardiovascular fitness, muscle strength, and positive mental health. Though Burlesque isn't only for women, at present it is a female-fronted and participated class, promoting body positivity, confidence and girl power as well as fitness and discipline.

Maryfield Men's Shed

The Men's Shed offers a vital space for practical projects and banter, proven to improve men's mental health and reduce isolation. They share stories and a cuppa as well as their expertise and have created many beautiful and practical items, most recently working with a local LGBT+ Gardening group to create raised beds for their upcoming garden space.

**Reminiscence**

One of our busiest groups (despite the early start!) our Reminiscence sessions tap into treasured memories, funny anecdotes and shared experiences, encouraging rich social interaction and supporting those living with dementia.

Chair Yoga

Chair Yoga has been a great addition to our physical activities- offering accessible exercise for all abilities and allowing attendees to enhance flexibility, circulation, and mindfulness. Being a low-energy activity makes it an appealing way for centre users to engage in gentle movement, concentration and stretching.

Model Club

The model club have been a below-the-radar group at Boomerang for a while, but recently have had an influx of new members – maybe having heard that building models fosters patience, focus, fine motor skills, and strong friendships across generations. Although not exclusively male, most attendees are men, and they find that chatting while working on projects creates a richer, more relaxed way to share experiences and thoughts.

Bingo

Bingo has long been thought of as an ‘old’ activity, however our attendees span all age ranges! Bingo promotes mental agility, social connection, and lots of laughter — important ingredients for a healthy and happy self – and if the camaraderie doesn’t bring people in, the fun (and often tasty) prizes will.

Walk n Talk

Everyone has experienced the barrier of having something that you need to say, but not being able to do so across a desk, living room or coffee table. Our Walk n Talk group combines the physical health benefits of walking with the emotional lift of friendly conversation – allowing people to have everything from gentle chat to deep and meaningful discourse, all the while walking through the beautiful Baxter Park with the promise of Stobswell’s best homemade soup — and a biscuit — waiting at the end.

Boccia

This inclusive, strategic sport encourages movement, teamwork, and a sense of achievement for all abilities- started in partnership with the Community Health Team, we have engaged a steadfast group of Boccia players who look forward to their weekly competition – no one is keeping score of the winners, but if we could harness the cheers and laughter in this room, we’d be top of the league.

Together, these groups create more than just activities — they build a network of friendship, confidence, resilience, and shared purpose. Every session offers a new opportunity for learning, laughter, and support, helping individuals to thrive while strengthening the wider community around them.

Events

We had a fantastic year of events in 2024/25, filled with fun, laughter, and great community spirit—all while raising vital funds for the Centre. From themed afternoon teas to our always-popular Easter, Summer, and Christmas Fayres, we kept the calendar busy with something for everyone.

Other highlights included a Burns Lunch, Psychic Nights, a lively Mexican Night, plenty of Bingo, a Tea Dance, a Buster Evening, and a range of family events. We also had teams take part in the Kiltwalk and welcomed supporters to our annual Golf Tournament.

Hosting events at the Centre brings more than just donations—it creates connection. These gatherings strengthen our community, encourage inclusivity, and build team spirit among staff, volunteers, and visitors alike. They're an essential part of what makes Boomerang feel like home to so many.

To mark International Women's Day, we hosted a special Women's Wellbeing Weekend, packed with relaxing and uplifting activities designed to celebrate and support the women in our community.

And in true Boomerang fashion, we had some adventurers on the move! Alison, along with her friends Jennifer and Judith, once again completed their annual Prison Break—this time in partnership with The Grey Lodge Settlement. They managed to make it all the way to Alicante without spending a single penny—a brilliant effort and a brilliant fundraiser!

One of our most memorable moments came on 7th July, when 11 children from Boomerang took to the skies over Tayside. This unforgettable experience was made possible by Aviation Without Borders and the Scottish Aero Club, and a fantastic day was had by all involved.

Christmas activities

The festive period was an extremely busy time for us here at Boomerang; In the run up, we were buoyed by many amazing individuals, businesses and organisations who collected gifts, larger provisions, selection boxes and cash donations to support our festive activities

Our Festive Fayre was attended by many families who enjoyed entertainment from a local choir, shopped at 18 different stalls for early pressies and of course, visited Santa for a gift or selection box. With more than 300 attendees it was a busy day- but filled with so much cheer that it FLEW by!

We were able to once again hold a Lunch Club Christmas Lunch, and another for our own Volunteers – in the end we went through nearly 500 Pigs In Blankets in December- truly the most wonderful time of year! Some of our service users were invited to attend a Christmas Lunch at Dens Park or Tannadice by the Dundee and Dundee United Community Trusts who also delivered hampers to those in need over the festive period. The staff team finished the year off with a delicious lunch at a local restaurant – culminating in an unforgettable trip on the Big Wheel...The centre then closed for a fortnight for some rest, recuperation and renovation!





Fundraising and funding

At Boomerang, we are incredibly fortunate to receive support from a wide range of funders, donors, and generous individuals. Their contributions—whether financial, practical, or in-kind—make a lasting difference to the work we do and the people we support.

Core Funders

We are grateful to the larger trusts and organisations whose sustained funding helps to cover our staffing and core costs, ensuring that our vital services can continue to thrive.

These include:

Henry Smith Charity

The National Lottery Community Fund

Robertson Trust

Garfield Weston Foundation

Dundee City Council

Community Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund

NHS Tayside Foundation Project-Based Support

Thanks also to the funders who have supported specific projects and developments over the year, helping us grow and diversify what we can offer our community:

Yorkshire Building Society

Leng Trust

Hillcrest Foundation

Nine Trades of Dundee

Cash for Kids

Northwood Charitable Trust

Various Dundee City Council Grants

Community, Corporate, and Individual Support

Beyond formal funding, we've also received invaluable support from individuals, community groups, and local businesses. From physical donations to time, resources, and practical help, these contributions are what truly make Boomerang feel like a community.

Retail Community Champions

Asda Kirkton & Dundee West – cake supplies, event donations

Asda Foundation – Christmas lunch, bakery items, bottled water

Morrisons – contributions to the Cosy Café and donations of bakery and other items

Tesco (both stores and customer contact centre) – toys, eggs, and selection boxes

Lidl – Christmas fund & food donations

B&Q Foundation – funding and volunteer support

BT/EE – donations of time and resources

Individual Supporters & Donations

Help for Kids – Christmas gifts and donations throughout the year.

Generous personal donations and support - Doug Binnie, Gordon Fotheringham, Irene Thompson, Mike Brown, Darren Kane, Anne & Scott Chisolm, Lisa Croll, Derek Hart & Family, the Thane Family

Colin Graeme (Thorntons Solicitors)

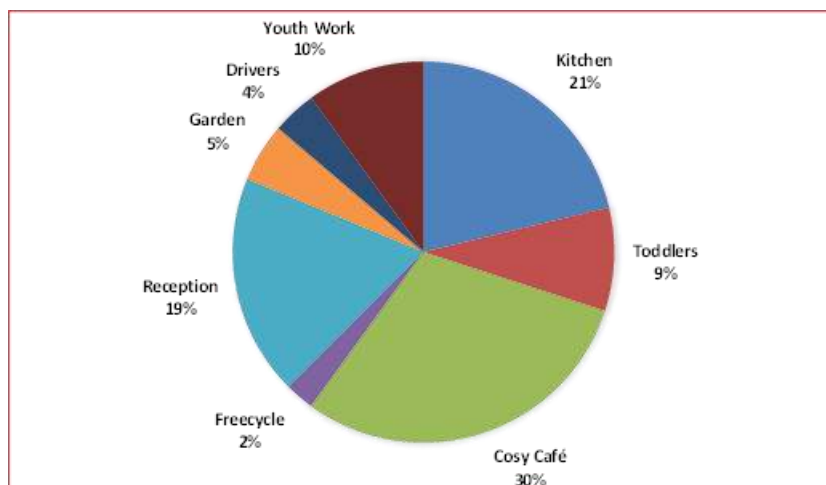
Community Organisations & Local Partners

Volunteering

Volunteers are at the very core of Boomerang's work — the hands that bake cakes, the voices that comfort, and the community spirit that keeps our centre thriving. Over the course of 2024–2025, we've been incredibly fortunate to work with 83 dedicated volunteers, each bringing their unique time, talents, and energy to a wide range of roles including kitchen service, reception, youth work, toddlers, the cosy café, gardening, and more. Together, these incredible individuals have contributed a staggering 19,320 hours to our work — a contribution that goes far beyond numbers. Their presence has helped tackle social isolation, deliver essential services, and offer a warm welcome to everyone who walks through our doors.

Whether offering a cup of tea, reading stories to toddlers, serving meals, or simply being a friendly face — our volunteers are truly the beating heart of our community. We could not do what we do without them, and we are endlessly grateful.

Area Breakdowns



Training at Boomerang

During the last year we have given volunteers a variety of different training opportunities, this includes REHIS, Mental Health First Aid, Suicide Prevention, First Aid and First Aid (Heart Start). Overall, we have had 35 volunteers complete one or more of these, with a certificate of completion. We continue to support volunteers with training and hope to get numbers up within the next year.



Corporate Volunteering Days

BT & EE staff have been outstanding supporters, completing practical tasks such as furniture repairs, organising stockrooms, and maintaining outdoor spaces. They also brought warmth and enthusiasm to our lunch clubs — helping with setup, service, and socialising with service users. A festive highlight was their Christmas visit, where volunteers dressed as Santa and elves, spreading joy and creating lasting memories.

Our Neighbourly connection with B&Q gave us the chance to have a team from the local store come in and volunteer in the autumn. Around 10 volunteers painted our bathrooms, reception, and outdoor kids' play area - and even built us a purpose-made sandbox!

It was all made extra exciting when B&Q's press team came along to film a section about the centre and this project. Some of our staff, volunteers, and service users got to appear on screen — and they absolutely nailed it!

The Insights team gave their time in December to help wrap over 100 donated gifts for our Christmas activities — a task we couldn't have managed without them.

We were also selected to be the recipient of the team's 'Gift of Discovery' session early this year, with board and staff taking part and learning how our personalities affect how we work!

We're incredibly grateful to all our corporate volunteers for their generosity and spirit.



School Volunteers & Work Experience

In partnership with Mark Fleming at Dundee City Council, we provided meaningful work experience placements for 30–40 pupils from schools across the city.

These placements offer hands-on experience and personal encouragement for young people, especially those facing challenges in mainstream education.

Some pupils have continued to volunteer with us, receiving additional support with CV writing, college applications, online courses, and participating in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

While not without its challenges, this work is deeply rewarding. Watching these young people thrive and make progress is a real testament to what community-based support can achieve. We're proud of what's been accomplished so far and look forward to growing this work even further in the year ahead.



Facilities & Maintenance

It's been a huge year for us at the centre when it comes to the bricks and mortar! The building we're in is now more than 40 years old — not ancient, but many of the original features are getting a bit out of sorts (a bit like those of us around that age!).

We had our first unexpected work to arrange when the original boiler gave out in Spring 2024. Replacing it was a huge job, but necessary to keep the building going — and our centre users warm!

After a series of unfortunate events (break-ins — boo!), we needed to upgrade our security system. Angus Alarms installed a great alarm and CCTV setup for us, partly funded by the Community Regeneration Fund — thanks so much to everyone who supported that bid! It's been well worth it: the rest of the year was much less troublesome, meaning our time, energy and resources could be focused where they should be — on the community!

Of course, when a window opens, a door usually closes — and it did then too. Our lift finally made its last trip after several years of temperamental behaviour. This caused real disruption: many of our users have limited mobility, whether through disability or age, and it became an extra struggle to access the whole building.

Thankfully, after several months of fundraising and grant applications, we were able to replace the lift in March this year — opening the centre back up to users of all abilities!

We were also very lucky to receive £6,200 from Morrisons Community Funding. This donation was used to revamp our cosy café — what began as a necessity post-Covid has now become a mainstay of our services and deserved a space to match. We passed on our garden chairs and folding tables and had Alexander Community Development give the place a fresh lick of paint and a new, usable kitchen! It looks great now, and service users have told us how bright and welcoming it feels. Don't worry though — we've kept the Dundee Mural and those fantastic retro photos, which are just as much a part of the café as the teapots!

We wish we could say that was it — but as with the Forth Road Bridge, the work is never really done! Looking ahead, maintenance forms a significant part of both our in-development business plan and many of our funding applications. After years of "making do," we would love to get our youth craft area truly fit for purpose. We've been fundraising for this, and as of the end of March, we're £3,600 into our £5,000 target! We're also aware that our windows are losing their vacuum seal (for double glazing), so they'll need replaced in time — both to keep everyone warm and to support our wider environmental goals, including reducing energy costs.

And finally, let's not forget the "wee jobs" — the weekly repairs and fixes that keep everything ticking over. We're very lucky to have several volunteers who look after the facilities, inside and out. We massively appreciate the time and skill they put into everything from bulb changes to tap tightening. Without their generous donation of time, our maintenance costs would be much higher, and what we could achieve would be much more limited. These "wee jobs" might be small, but they're mighty!

A Message from the Manager

As we come to the end of another busy year at the centre, I want to take a moment to reflect on everything that's been

achieved — despite it being an unsettled year for us here at Boomerang.

This has been a year of real growth — not just in the services we offer or the events we've hosted, but also in the heart of our operations. We've seen several big shifts over the past twelve months: a new Manager in June, a new Board in October, and a new lift installed in March. Change can be challenging, and we've definitely come across a few hurdles (Alison deleting the whole shared drive, anyone?), but everything has been done with the centre and our community firmly in mind.

It hasn't all been change, though. We've doubled down on our services — stretching our time, resources, and commitment as far as possible to meet the needs around us. We've built new partnerships and launched new programmes to help make this happen, ensuring Boomerang continues to be a place of support and connection.

My predecessor, Gill, moved across to a different organisation in May, opening the door for me to arrive — not just at Boomerang, but in Dundee itself — in June. From my very first day, there hasn't been a dull moment!

I'm incredibly proud to have overseen the centre since then and hope that the devotion, dedication, and affection I feel

for Boomerang and its users shines through in what we do every day. Though there are times you might not see me

(usually when I'm tied to my desk), my door — and my ears — are always open.

Of course, without our team, none of this would happen. I'm constantly reminded that it's the community — our staff, volunteers, service users, funders, partners, and friends — who truly keep this place running. Your generosity, skills, time, and encouragement have made every project possible, whether that's painting a playroom, donating carrier bags for the larder, or helping us reach our fundraising targets. I'd like to give special thanks to Gill, as well as Sophie Dolan and Amy McLaughlin who played integral roles to the centre over their time here- it's always sad to see team members move on but there is also a joy in knowing that they will continue with their education or profession, taking a little bit of Boomerang with them.

I'd also like to take a moment to acknowledge and thank the Board of Trustees who served during the 2024–2025 year. Their contributions helped steer the organisation through a period of considerable change, and I appreciated the welcome extended to me as I began in post. As we move forward with a renewed sense of purpose and direction, their tenure marks an important chapter in Boomerang's ongoing journey.

Looking ahead, we're excited. We are committed to building a centre that is set for the future: environmentally

responsible, financially sustainable, and, most importantly, centred around the needs and dreams of our community.

We've welcomed community input into our upcoming Business Plan for 2025–2030 and hope that each and every one of you sees yourself reflected in it.

Thank you to everyone who has been part of this year's journey. Whether you gave your time, your skills, your donations, or simply your good wishes — it all matters, and it all makes a difference. And thanks to for the warm welcome you have extended to myself (and Louie!) Here's to another year of community, connection, and growth.

Carrie Reid Manager

